REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent 6,061,056 to <u>Menard et al.</u> (herein "<u>Menard</u>").

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by <u>Menard</u>, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

It is initially noted that each of independent claims 1, 3, and 17 is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein. Specifically, claim 1 clarifies that the information providing method comprises "forming a program database by dividing multimedia information into items of partial information and adding program feature data based on the items of the partial information to the multimedia information in units of the items of the partial information". Independent claim 1 now also recites "searching for an item of the partial information which accords with user profile data from the program database based on matching between the user profile data and the program feature data" and "providing the searched partial information to a user".

Independent claim 3 is similarly amended as independent claim 1 noted above. Further, claim 17 is amended to clarify that the text analysis is "in units of <u>items of</u> partial information" and to clarify that the search engine selects "<u>an item of</u> the partial information".

The above-noted features are believed to clearly distinguish over the teachings in <u>Menard</u>.

<u>Menard</u> merely teaches that broadcast television signals are received and program signal streams are generated. In <u>Menard</u> a program data stream is generated from the broadcast television signals. The program data stream separates from the program signal stream and represents program contents. The program data streams are synchronized with the program signal streams. As a result, in <u>Menard</u> the program segment and the program data

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stream associated therewith are stored when the program data stream matches data representing a criteria identified program content of interest to a user.

However, Menard is deficient with respect to the claims as currently written as Menard does not teach or suggest "forming a program database by dividing multimedia information into items of partial information and adding program feature data based on the items of the partial information to the multimedia unit in units of the items of the partial information", as positively recited in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in independent claim 3.

Further, independent claims 3 and 17 also recite operations to analyze (claim 3) and storing an analysis result (claim 17) of multimedia information stored in a first database using "at least one of moving image analysis, acoustic/speech analysis, and text analysis", which is neither taught nor suggested by Menard. Further, in claim 17 that text analysis is "in units of items of partial information", which further distinguishes over the teachings in Menard; and Claim 3 similarly recites an operation "to divide the multimedia information into items of partial information based on a result of the analysis". Those features recited in claims 3 and 17 are also neither taught nor suggested by Menard, and thus claims 3 and 17 also distinguish over the teachings in Menard.

Further, with respect to independent claim 19, independent claim 19 recites an information describing method including classifying information items into plural groups of information items relating to personal information of a user, some of the groups of information items including plural subgroups, and describing each information item in the group or the subgroup in an order according to a priority of the information item determined for each user.

In such ways, according to claim 19 the items are arranged in the order of priority.[2] A non-limiting example of that operation is also shown in steps S52 and S53 in Figure 20 of the present specification, which shows that the priority of a key word in a user profile data is raised if the profile data of the user in the user profile database 104 has a corresponding key word (item). If there are a plurality of items that cannot be displayed at once, only items having higher priorities are displayed at once. Thus, the above control of assigning priorities is preferable.

Such features as recited in claim 19 are also not taught or suggested in <u>Menard</u>. Therefore, independent claim 19 is also patentably distinguishable over <u>Menard</u>.

In view of the above comments, it is respectfully submitted that each of independent claims 1, 3, 17 and 19, and the claims dependent therefrom, distinguish over the teachings in <u>Menard</u>.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

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[2] See also the present specification at page 15, lines 24-27, as a non-limiting example.

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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) An information providing method comprising:

forming a program database by dividing multimedia information into items of partial

information and adding program feature data based on the items of the partial information to

the multimedia information in units of the items of the partial information [of the multimedia

information to form a program database];

searching for an item of the partial information which accords with user profile data

from [said multimedia information] the program database based on matching between the

user profile data and the program feature data; and

providing the searched partial information to a user.

3. (Twice Amended) An information providing apparatus comprising:

a first database configured to store multimedia information;

an analyze section configured to analyze said multimedia information stored in said

first database [in units of partial information of the multimedia information] using at least one

analysis method of moving image analysis, acoustic/speech analysis, and text analysis;

a second database configured to divide the multimedia information into items of

partial information based on a result of the analysis by the analyze section and to store

program feature data which is obtained based on the result of analysis by the analyze section

in units of the items of the multimedia information [partial information of the multimedia

information] or program feature data which is externally inputted; and

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a search engine configured to search for [program feature data from] said second

database in accordance with user profile data to find program feature data which accords with

the user profile, and select an item of the partial information from said multimedia

information stored in said first database in accordance with the found searched program

feature data.

17. (Twice Amended) An information reception apparatus connected to an

information providing server having a database which stores multimedia information and

program feature data which is an analysis result of at least one of moving image analysis,

acoustic/speech analysis, and text analysis in units of items of partial information of the

multimedia information or program feature data which is externally inputted, comprising:

a search engine configured to search for predetermined program feature data from

said database and select an item of the partial information from said multimedia information

stored in said database in accordance with searched program feature data.